Fund could be utilised only through dole to the Consumer Bodies as financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether there was flagrant violation of the rules and regulations for spending from the Consumer Welfare Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against the guilty persons and to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No Sir. Under the Consumer Welfare Fund rules, any agency/organization, village/Mandal/Samiti level cooperatives of consumers especially of women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, engaged in the consumer welfare acativities for a period of three years and registered under the Companies Act 1956 or under any law for the time being in force are eligible to seek financial assistance from the Fund. Besides, any industry as defined in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 recommended by Bureau of Indian Standards to be engaged for a period of five years in viable and useful research activities which has made or is likely to make significant contribution in formation of standard mark of the products of mass consumption; the State Governments, etc., are also eligible to seek financial assistance from the Fund.

(b) and (c) So far, no such violation has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

Wheat Grain Affected by Karnal Bunt Fungus

2695. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat grain is affected by the Karnal bunt fungus;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to come over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wheat grain is affected by Karnal bunt fungus mainly in some pockets of Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. Even during epidemic the extent of loss due to karnal bunt is estimated between 0.2 to 0.5%. During last three years there has been no report of any epidemic due to Karnal Bunt.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to overcome the situation :

(i) ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and other extension functionaries are advocating growing of Karnal bunt disease resistant/tolerant varieties.

(ii) Seed treatment with thiram fungicide to control seed-borne infection of the disease.

(iii) Folior application with bitertanol/ propiconazole fungicides at the early heading stage

Corruption in D.M.S

1696. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alleged corruption prevailing in the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have come to light during the last five years;

(c) whether any Departmental and C.B.I. inquiry had been conducted against the guilty officers of D.M.S. during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of findings of inquiry, and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the corruption prevalent in the D.M.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) There was one case of corruption in the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) in the last five years. This involved a General Manager. The case was handled by the Central Bureau of Investigation and is currently under trial.

(f) The Vigilance Officer and the Chief Vigilance Officer exercise the necessary checks and control to prevent corruption in the D.M.S.

Illegal Felling of Trees

2697. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large scale illegal felling of trees in the Rajaji Park in the Shivalik hills, Uttar Pradesh is causing serious decline in the forest cover as well as loss of crores of rupees to the Forest Department;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to take concrete action against the involved persons, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The State Chief Wildlife Warden